

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 SAM-01 OIC-01 IGA-01 SP-02

AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06 INR-05 PA-01 PRS-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 H-01 /069 W

----- 022944

R 041540Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 110

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 830

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, SA

SUBJECT: UNESCO

REF: (A) STATE 9408; (B) PARIS 1499; (C) JIDDA 481

1. AS WE SAID WE WOULD, WE HAVE SOUNDED OUT FONOFF
ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE UNESCO QUESTION. WE MUST ABANDON
OUR PREVIOUS VERY QUALIFIED OPTIMISM THAT THERE MIGHT BE
WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SOME QUITE MOTION BACK FROM THE
DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE. WE
DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SAG WILL KNOWINGLY COMMIT ANY
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ACT OF OMISSION OR COMMISSION WHOSE EFFECT WOULD BE TO

EASE THE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WITHIN THE UN AND ITS ASSOCIATED AGENCIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF UNESCO BECAUSE IT HAS BECOME IDENTIFIED WITH THE JERUSALEM QUESTION.

2. OUR EXPLORATIONS HAVE BEEN AT THE OFFICE DIRECTOR (AMBASSADORIAL) LEVEL. THE HIGHER WE GO THE MORE RIGID WE EXPECT WOULD BE THE ATTITUDE. IF OMAR SAQQAF WERE STILL ALIVE, WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INDUCE SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE SAUDI POSITION. THE ACTING MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD MAS'UD SHARES IN FULL MEASURE THE KING'S VIEWS ON JERUSALEM AND IS IN HIS OWN RIGHT A HARDLINER ON ISRAEL.

3. FROM THE JIDDA PERSPECTIVE IT SEEMS THAT WE WOULD BE BEST OFF TO DROP THE UNESCO QUESTION ENTIRELY WITH THE ARABS AND CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES IN THE HOPE OF GETTING A FAVORABLY RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL ISSUE. (WE DO NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR EMBASSIES IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, BUT ARE SURE THAT IF THAT SAG IS SOUNDED OUT BY ANY OTHER ARAB GOVT IT WILL RECOMMEND A RIGID POSITION.)

AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA00830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0257
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750275/aaaacph1.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 9408, 75 PARIS 1499, 75 JIDDA 481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO
TAGS: AORG, SA, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006